NEWS FROM
SENATOR JAMES O. EASTLAND
WASHINGTON, D.C.
FURTHER INFORMATION: LARRY SPEAKES (202-225-

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON -- Senator James O. Eastland (D. Miss) said Wednesday he is "assembling all available facts" in the slaying of Martin Luther King "in an effort to answe some questions in my mind."

Senator Eastland, who heads the Internal Security Subcommittee, said he is looking into the matter as head of the Senate's anti-communist watchdog committee. "There are some questions which are unanswered," the Senator said. "They deserve an answer."

He pointed out that Ray's own statements had indicated there was a conspiracy with a "blond Latin" man, who directed Ray and provided him with funds. "The obvious question is - were there communists involved?" the Senator said. "There has been and there are now some questions in my mind on this incident" he added. " I have doubts that this killing was the work of one man."

The Senator said he wanted to find out --

--how Ray knew that King was going to be in the Lorraine Motel...
--how Ray knew the location of King's room. . .
--how Ray knew King would come out on the balcony where he was shot. . .
--how did Ray know exactly where to go to get a room from which to fire the shot...

"It is obvious to me," said the Senator, "that someone inside the motel advised Ray. "The mathematical odds that King would step from a certain room onto a balcony directly in front of a would-be assassin are impossible to calculate," the Senator said. "Only a man armed with detailed and accurate information could have positioned himself to fire the fatal shot." He said also it was a puzzle as to "who assisted and advised Ray in the intricacies of international travel."

Furthermore, he added, some of the leaders of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, which King headed, have said Ray is not guilty.

The Senator emphasized that he had "no direct information" on any individual. "I simply am raising some questions that are in my mind," he said.